

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 as follows:

ADAMTS proteins exhibit characteristics of the ADAM (A Disintegrin And Metalloprotease) family of metalloproteases, and in addition contain a thrombospondin domain (TS). The prototypic ADAMTS was identified in mouse, found to be expressed in heart and kidney and upregulated by proinflammatory stimuli (K. Kuno et al., *Molecular cloning of a gene encoding a new type of metalloproteinase-disintegrin family protein with thrombospondin motifs as a inflammation associated gene*, 272 Journal of Biological Chemistry 556 (January 1997). To date nine members are recognized by the HUGO database <http://www.gene.ucl.ac.uk/users/hester/adamts>). Members of this family have the ability to degrade aggrecan, a high molecular weight proteoglycan which provides cartilage with important mechanical properties and which is lost during the development of arthritis.